

## DECISION RECORD

EA LOG NO. OR-010-2000-05

Applicant: MC Beaty Butte Grazing Association

Address: Adel, Oregon

County: Lake

BLM Office Lakeview District

Phone No. 947-2177

Decision Record

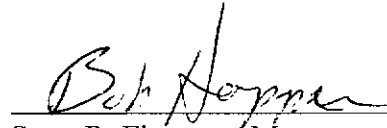
### **Decision:**

The decision is to revise the MC Beaty Butte Grazing Association 10-year grazing permit which includes the Beaty Butte Allotment (0600) and the Greaser Drift Allotment (0205). The revision allows for the grazing season in the Beaty Butte Allotment to be extended from October 15 to December 15 and the grazing season in the Greaser Drift Allotment to be changed from 09/01-10/20 to 10/01-12/15. The revised grazing permit does not change the number of permitted AUMS in either allotment.

### **Rationale:**

The objective of the change in the grazing season for both allotments is to allow more flexibility and better management. In both pastures changing the grazing to later in the season during the dormant period would allow for their use without significantly impact the vegetation. The herbaceous vegetation is in a state of dormancy at this time with reserves stored in the roots. Therefore when it is practical to change some of the grazing use to dormant season use, it is beneficial to the vegetation and other resources.

An EA/FONSI were issued for 30-day comment in August, 2000. One formal comment letter, one electronic (e-mail) comment letter, and telephone comment were recieved on this proposal. The comment letter and the e-mail letter were responded to with formal letters addressing their concerns. The telephone comment indicated there would be a written comment following but it was never received. The telephone comment was interested in potential impacts to pygmy rabbits. It was determined by the wildlife biologist, that while pygmy rabbits had been identified in the area, the proposed action would have no impact on the rabbits. None of the comments recieved led to the need to revise the proposal or the environmental analysis.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
for Scott R. Florence, Manager  
Lakeview Resource Area

11/16/00  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
FONSI

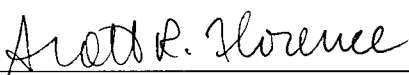
Revised for  
Rabbit Creek Gap Fences

EA# OR-010-89-15

The Bureau of Land Management, Lakeview District, Lakeview Resource Area, has analyzed a proposal and its alternatives to construct approximately 1.4 miles of additional three wire-barbed fence that would connect to BLM's existing Rabbit Creek Gap fence constructed in 1990. The environmental impacts of the gap fencing project were previously analyzed in EA# OR-010-89-15. The purpose and environmental impacts of the proposed additional fencing are essentially the same as those previously analyzed for the Rabbit Creek Gap Fence project. Therefore, a new environmental analysis is not needed. The objective of this proposed project is the same as the gap fencing project: to control livestock from trailing off the Rabbit Creek rim into the Colvin Timbers pasture. The sporadic cattle drift has been documented and at times had resulted in several number of cattle grazing in a pasture that usually is scheduled for REST. The proposed action would improve the management with better control of livestock by the allotment permittee and decrease the potential for unauthorized cattle drift and cattle concentrating at the bottom of Rabbit Creek (dry) drainage. The project is in conformance with the Warner Lakes Management Framework Plan as amended 1989 and the 1983 Lakeview Grazing Management Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

There are no floodplains, wild and scenic rivers, known hazardous waste areas, areas of religious concern, prime or unique farmlands in the immediate project area. The project area does not qualify for potential wilderness designation. No adverse or beneficial significant impact is anticipated to lands, recreation, minerals, air or water quality, or low income/minority populations. Surveys conducted in 1990 found no threatened or endangered plants or cultural or paleontological resources in the area. The proposed additional fence location will be field checked prior to construction, and fence location adjusted, if needed.

On the basis of the analysis contained in the attached EA and all other available information, it is my determination that none of the alternatives analyzed constitutes a major federal action that would adversely impact the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is unnecessary and will not be prepared.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott R. Florence, Manager,  
Lakeview Resource Area

3-27-00  
Date



**DECISION RECORD**

Revised

for

Rabbit Creek Gap Fences  
EA# OR-010-89-15

**DECISION:** The following is the decision of the Bureau of Land Management; Amend the previous Rabbit Creek Gap Fence Decision Record (date 8/29/89) to include construction of 1.4 mile of barbed-wire fence back away from the Rabbit Creek rim that would connect from the already existing gap fence rock cribs. Moving the fence away from the rim would allow movement of wildlife and prevent livestock from trailing off the gaps. Following the completion of the fence, repairs and normal maintenance will be assigned to the allotment permittee under the existing cooperative agreement for the original gap fence project.

**NOXIOUS WEED CONSIDERATIONS:**

The project was initially reviewed by the Lakeview Resource Area Noxious Weed Coordinator at a RA scoping meeting. The project area is within the Warner Valley Management Area and any discovery of noxious weed infestations will be mapped and reported.

**RATIONALE:**

The current proposed fence addition is substantially the same action as previously analyzed in EA #OR-010-89-15. The objective of this additional fence would be to further control the cattle drift that is beginning to become a consistent problem. This new fence will work to eliminate several gaps along the rim that have become a path for cattle. One other alternative was considered in the EA, "no action". The "no action" alternative was reviewed and found that the problem of livestock drifting of the rim would continue.

Scott R. Florence  
Scott R. Florence, Manager  
Lakeview Resource Area

5/9/00  
Date



FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
FONSI

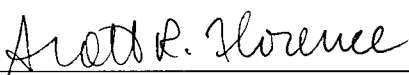
Revised for  
Rabbit Creek Gap Fences

EA# OR-010-89-15

The Bureau of Land Management, Lakeview District, Lakeview Resource Area, has analyzed a proposal and its alternatives to construct approximately 1.4 miles of additional three wire-barbed fence that would connect to BLM's existing Rabbit Creek Gap fence constructed in 1990. The environmental impacts of the gap fencing project were previously analyzed in EA# OR-010-89-15. The purpose and environmental impacts of the proposed additional fencing are essentially the same as those previously analyzed for the Rabbit Creek Gap Fence project. Therefore, a new environmental analysis is not needed. The objective of this proposed project is the same as the gap fencing project: to control livestock from trailing off the Rabbit Creek rim into the Colvin Timbers pasture. The sporadic cattle drift has been documented and at times had resulted in several number of cattle grazing in a pasture that usually is scheduled for REST. The proposed action would improve the management with better control of livestock by the allotment permittee and decrease the potential for unauthorized cattle drift and cattle concentrating at the bottom of Rabbit Creek (dry) drainage. The project is in conformance with the Warner Lakes Management Framework Plan as amended 1989 and the 1983 Lakeview Grazing Management Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

There are no floodplains, wild and scenic rivers, known hazardous waste areas, areas of religious concern, prime or unique farmlands in the immediate project area. The project area does not qualify for potential wilderness designation. No adverse or beneficial significant impact is anticipated to lands, recreation, minerals, air or water quality, or low income/minority populations. Surveys conducted in 1990 found no threatened or endangered plants or cultural or paleontological resources in the area. The proposed additional fence location will be field checked prior to construction, and fence location adjusted, if needed.

On the basis of the analysis contained in the attached EA and all other available information, it is my determination that none of the alternatives analyzed constitutes a major federal action that would adversely impact the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is unnecessary and will not be prepared.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott R. Florence, Manager,  
Lakeview Resource Area

3-27-00  
Date





# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Lakeview District Office  
HC10 Box 337 - 1300 South G Street  
Lakeview, Oregon 97630  
email address: or010mb@or.blm.gov



4100 (015)

September 1, 2000

Dear Recipient:

The Lakeview District, Bureau of Land Management, has analyzed a proposal to alter permitted grazing use within the Beaty Butte (0600) and Greaser Drift (0205) allotments. The proposed change on the Beaty Butte allotment would amend the Beaty Butte Allotment Management Plan. Both allotments are located in southeastern Lake County, Oregon.

The attached Environmental Assessment (EA#OR-010-2000-05) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) have been prepared to document the impacts of the proposed action. Additional copies are available by writing to the Lakeview District Office, HC 10, Box 337 Lakeview, Oregon 97630, or by calling Les Boothe or Paul Whitman at (541) 947-2177. The documents are also available on the Lakeview District's webpage at [www.or.blm.gov/Lakeview/eas/eas.htm](http://www.or.blm.gov/Lakeview/eas/eas.htm).

If you wish to provide comments on the proposed grazing change you must do so, in writing to the address given above, by October 2, 2000.

Sincerely,

Scott R. Florence, Manager  
Lakeview Resource Area

Enclosures (as stated)



**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**  
**MC Beaty Butte Association Grazing Permit Change**  
**EA# OR-010-2000-05**

The Bureau of Land Management, Lakeview Resource Area, has analyzed a proposal and its alternatives to modify the Beaty Butte grazing permit. The proposed action would extend the grazing season for the Beaty Butte Allotment by 2 months until December 15, but not change the number of Animal Unit Months (AUMS) allowed. The proposed action would also modify the grazing schedule on the Greaser Drift allotment by moving it later into the fall until December 15, but also would not change the number of AUMS allowed. The objective of the change is to improve grazing management and allow for some of the grazing use to be done during the dormant season. This project is in conformance with the Warner Lakes Management Framework Plan (1983) and the Lakeview Grazing Management Final Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision (1982). This proposal represents an amendment to the Beaty Butte Allotment Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (1998).

There are no floodplains, wild and scenic rivers, known hazardous waste areas, areas of religious concern, prime or unique farm lands in the areas covered by the proposed action. About a third of the Spaulding pasture does qualify for potential wilderness designation, but this status would not be significantly impacted by the proposed change in the grazing schedule. The Greaser Drift Allotment does include a small portion of wetlands, but the proposed change in the grazing schedule would have no new or additional impacts on wetlands. No adverse or beneficial significant impact is anticipated to lands and minerals. Surveys found no threatened or endangered plants or cultural or paleontological resources in the area.

On the basis of the analysis contained in the attached EA and all other available information, it is my determination that none of the alternatives analyzed constitute a major federal action that would adversely impact the quality of the human environment. Therefore an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is unnecessary and will not be prepared.

Scott R. Florence  
Scott R. Florence, Manager  
Lakeview Field Office

9/1/00  
Date



**PROJECT TITLE/TYPE:** Modification of the MC Beaty Butte Grazing Association Grazing Permit.

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Beaty Butte Allotment (0600) Spaulding pasture and Greaser Drift Allotment (205) (see attached map).

**BLM OFFICE:** Lakeview Resource Area, Lakeview District

**APPLICANT:** MC Beaty Butte Grazing Association

**CONFORMANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAND USE PLAN:** This proposed action is subject to the following land use plans.

**Name of Plans:** Warner Lakes Management Framework Plan (MFP), as amended (1983 and 1989), Lakeview Grazing Management FEIS and ROD (1982), Oregon Wilderness FEIS and ROD (1989 and 1991), Wilderness Interim Management Policy (1995), Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States FEIS and ROD (1991), Supplement to the Northwest Area Noxious Weed Control Program FEIS and ROD (1987), Integrated Noxious Weed Control Program EA #OR-013-93-03 (1994), Lakeview District Fire Management Plan - Phase 1 (1998), Rangeland Reform '94 FEIS and ROD (1995), Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management for Public Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management in the States of Oregon and Washington (1997).

**Remarks:** This proposal represents a change or amendment to the Beaty Butte Allotment Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (1998).

**PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION:** The purpose is to extend the grazing season so as to allow better use and management of the Spaulding pasture in the Beaty Butte Allotment. The purpose of altering the grazing schedule in the Greaser Drift Allotment (0205) is so that the allotment can be used in conjunction with the Beaty Butte Allotment.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION:** The proposed action is to extend the grazing season on the Beaty Butte allotment from October 15 to December 15. The proposed action also includes changing the grazing season on the Greaser Drift allotment from September 1 - October 20 to October 1 - December 15. These changes in the grazing schedule would not increase the number of AUMS permitted on the allotments, but would spread the use into the dormant season.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

**NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE** - This would involve not amending the existing grazing permit and would maintain the current grazing season.

**NO GRAZING ALTERNATIVE** - This alternative would involve removing grazing from both allotments. This alternative was previously addressed in the Lakeview Grazing Management FEIS and ROD (1982) and the Beaty Butte Allotment Management Plan FEIS and ROD (1998). It is outside the scope of this analysis and is not evaluated further.

**PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE** - This alternative consists of implementing the



proposed action, as described above.

**AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT:** The Spaulding pasture in the Beaty Butte Allotment is described in detail in Chapter 3, Affected Environment and in Appendices E and F of the Beaty Butte Allotment Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement(1998). The Greaser Drift allotment (0205) is a flat allotment with some rolling hills on the east end. The dominant range sites are sodic terraces and low sodic terraces with some desert loam and dry floodplain. The soils are playas with sandy loams and stony loams on the higher ground. A detailed description of the vegetation, wildlife habitat and wildlife populations can be found in Chapter 3, Affected Environment, of the Warner Lakes Plan Amendment for Wetlands and Associated Uplands (1989). The Spaulding Pasture is located partially within the Spaulding Wilderness Study Area (WSA). There is no known important sage-grouse habitat within the Spaulding pasture or the Greaser Drift allotment.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:** The potential environmental impacts resulting from the alternatives relative to the following critical resource values were evaluated by the BLM staff. The following is a summary of the results:

Critical Element/ Resource Value	Significantly Affected		Critical Element/ Resource Value	Significantly Affected	
	Yes	No		Yes	No
Air Quality		X	T & E Species		X
ACEC/RNAs		X	Wilderness		X
Cultural Resources		X	Wild & Scenic Rivers		X
Farmlands, Prime/Unique		X	Hazardous Wastes		X
Floodplains		X	Water Quality		X
Native American Cultural/ Religious Concerns		X	Wetlands/Riparian Zones		X
Low Income/ Minority Populations		X	Noxious Weeds		X

**DESCRIPTION OF OTHER IMPACTS:** In both pastures changing the grazing to later in the season during the dormant period would not significantly impact the vegetation. The herbaceous vegetation is in a state of dormancy at this time of the year. Energy reserves are stored in the roots. The amount of Larkspur in the Spaulding pasture may be reduced by grazing primarily in the fall instead of the historic spring use.

About 42% of the Spaulding pasture is part of the Spaulding Wilderness Study Area and this WSA is found along the east side of the pasture. The amount of livestock grazing use proposed in the proposed action was analyzed within the



Final Oregon Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement (1989) in Volume II on page 254. With that livestock use level the WSA was determined to be suitable and no reduction in livestock was proposed. The proposed change in grazing schedule would not negatively impact wilderness values. The dormant season grazing would not change the composition of the vegetation in the pasture. The utilization levels within the WSA would be light to moderate as five of the six major waterholes in the pasture are located outside of the WSA. The one waterhole within the WSA would typically be dry during the fall of most years. Therefore, the concentrated use typically seen around waterholes would occur outside the WSA and have no impact on the wilderness values.

**NOXIOUS WEED CONSIDERATIONS:** The amount and types of noxious weeds should not be impacted by the proposed action. The pastures would continue to be monitored and any noxious weeds would be reported and treated in accordance with the existing noxious weeds plans .

**PERSONS/AGENCIES CONSULTED:** BLM Resource Specialists (see attached list). In addition, this EA was mailed out to all individuals, agencies, tribes and groups who participated in the Beaty Butte AMP working group.

**PREPARER(S) :**

Les Boothe - Range Management Specialist, BLM

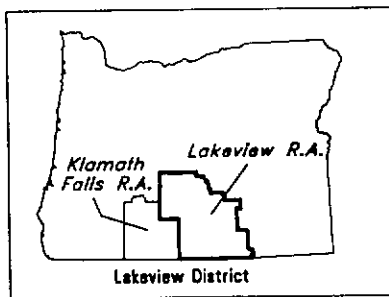
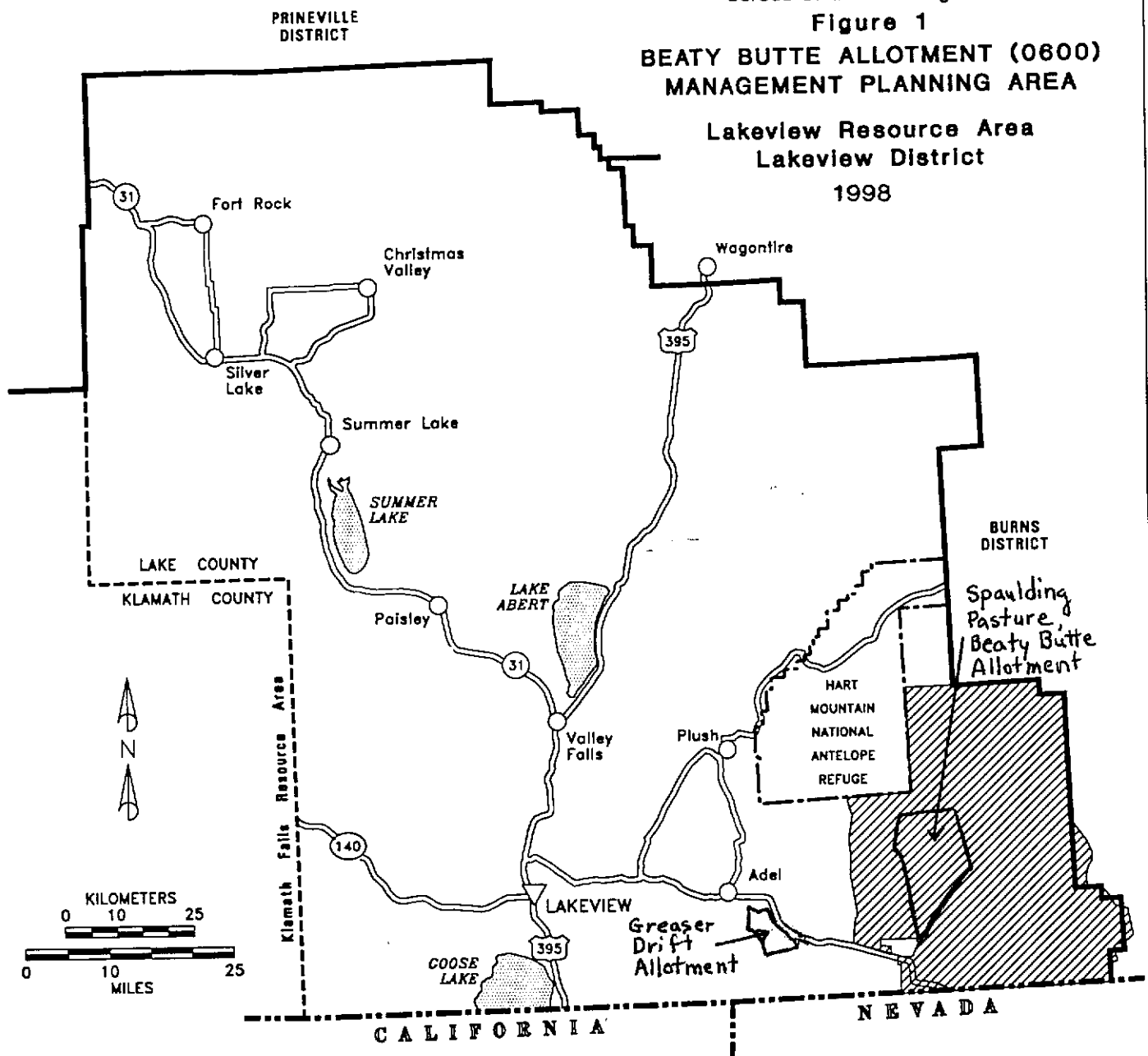
Paul Whitman - Planning and Environmental Coordinator, BLM



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Bureau of Land Management

Figure 1  
BEATY BUTTE ALLOTMENT (0600)  
MANAGEMENT PLANNING AREA

Lakeview Resource Area  
Lakeview District  
1998



OREGON

LEGEND

- Beaty Butte Allotment
- Lakeview District Office
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- District Boundary
- State Boundary
- Resource Area Boundary
- Fish and Wildlife Service Boundary